

Thought conquers difficulty. Use the will power with which God endowed you to drive yourself to think, and by thinking open the prison doors of dullness, frustration, monotony, fear, and failure. We have been advised down through the ages to know the truth and that the truth may make us free. I urge that you educate yourselves to know the truth. Misconceptions are bred of ignorance. Great states are made great states by men and women armed with truth and that is the key to a better life. False ideas hold us back—as individuals and as states. Better thinking will bring us the better life.

So let's not trip ourselves up here in North Carolina, not with poor thinking or with ignorance. Let's think well and work well in order that we may live well and be safe in the future.

If we ever believe, even for a short time, that we don't have to think well or work well, that's fatal. Each of us must earn what he wants from life by honest effort, good sense, true ability, coöperation, and alertness in the things we do. We have to work. Nothing works without work.

So take an inventory of yourself, your character. Failure can be explained by saying that some young men have the nerve to take an inventory of themselves until they finally find out that they are out of the race.

No young person should, of course, let this happen. A single hour of earnest thought and self-analysis might make all of a person's life look different. People should make a habit of seeing where they stand today, and where they might stand. Maybe it could be higher and better. Maybe you could find out how to get there.

So examine your character, study your habits, look to your physical strength and weakness, analyze your peculiarities, and weigh your knowledge. Decide to do the things that you know you ought to do. And remember, when you have done all these things, that opportunity comes toward some with the pace of a snail. So a little patience may also have to be added to the formula. But be ready when it does arrive.

The real answer to a better life for all of us is deep within each of us; it comes through our own self-development. There is no other answer to freedom and progress in your state and mine, in your land and mine. And the first task of the true citizen is to make that fact plain and support the glory of a better North Carolina, and, in North Carolina, the better man, the better woman, and the better child—on which must depend the future of our state and nation.